

Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Wisconsin

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PURPLE MILKWEED

(*Asclepias purpurascens*)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Endangered



Description: Purple milkweed grows to a height of 2 to 4 feet tall. It has a smooth stem, and paired tapering leaves with no teeth. Clusters of small purple or pink flowers develop in June or July. Typical of other milkweed flowers, its petals bend back toward the stem. In the fall the plant develops seed pods containing many seeds with fluffy tails.

Habitat: This native milkweed grows in oak forests in partial shade. In addition, it has been seen growing in oak savannas, oak openings in partial shade, and even along some roadsides where similar conditions prevail.



Forestry Considerations: Care should be taken to avoid disturbance of purple milkweed by machinery and the construction of roads.

Logging should be done when the ground is frozen, leaving some trees to provide the partial shade this wildflower requires.

